

Fact Sheet

HURRICANE LIAISON TEAM

- The Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) is a Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency -sponsored team made up of federal, state, and local emergency managers who have extensive hurricane operational experience.
- The director of the National Hurricane Center (NHC) can request the HLT be activated whenever tropical storms threaten. The HLT then deploys to the National Hurricane Center on the campus of Florida International University in Miami, Fla. Once there, team members function as a bridge between scientists, meteorologists and the emergency managers who respond if the storm threatens the United States or its territories.
- Team members provide immediate and critical storm information to government agency decision makers at all levels to help them prepare for their response operations, which may include evacuations, sheltering, and mobilizing equipment. State and/or local officials, not the HLT, make decisions concerning evacuations.
- The HLT concept originated because of the volume of storms in the active 1995 hurricane season, and the increase in requests by state and local governments for timely information from the National Hurricane Center.
- The team's creation evolved from the need for the emergency management community to be kept updated on the growth of movements of storms and because of the increasing population of the nation's coastal areas.

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